

federal sources, and now the airport can accommodate larger aircraft for a local firm that overhauls jet engines.

The road leading to the airport was relocated as part of the improvements. It will be named for Neosho Police Officer Terry Johnson who was killed earlier this year in a flying accident at the airport.

The celebration in Neosho will be marked by hot air balloons, a Civil War living history display, an air show, ground displays of the Confederate Air Force and military aircraft, and, naturally, fireworks. Music, crafts and lots of friendly Ozarks people should make this a wonderful weekend to visit Neosho and to honor the work of Hugh Robinson. (1882-1963)

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 259, H. Con. Res. 94, I erroneously voted "aye." My vote should have been in the negative.

#### COMMEMORATION OF THE VICTORY OF FREEDOM IN THE COLD WAR ACT

##### HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor of the House today to introduce the Commemoration of the Victory of Freedom in the Cold War Act, a bill to recognize the accomplishments of the American people in winning the Cold War.

On September 26th, 1996, this House debated and approved without dissent, House Concurrent Resolution 181, which I offered to begin the process of national recognition for the tens of millions of citizen-patriots, who had participated in our 46 year Cold War struggle.

In 1997, both Houses of Congress amended the President's proposed fiscal year 1998 National Defense Authorization Act to authorize a Cold War Certificate of Recognition to honor the more than 22 million veterans of the Cold War. In that act, we established the date for the start of the Cold War as September 2d 1945, to coincide with the signing of the Peace Treaty with Japan, thus ending World War II and our alliance with the Soviet Union. In that act, we also established the date for the end of the Cold War as December 26th, 1991, to coincide with the end of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the birth of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The people of the United States of America should recognize and celebrate the grandeur of this historic accomplishment:

Four hundred million people in Europe and Asia were liberated from Soviet communism; Germany was united peacefully; the states of western Europe buried their historic animos-

ities and started creating a peaceful European Union; struggles, which boiled over into conflicts all around the world, from Korea and Vietnam to Afghanistan and El Salvador, and threatened the nuclear annihilation of the entire human race ended without that horrible outcome; the potential for a truly global economy where the potential of the entire human race is available for the first time in the history of mankind was opened; and the American people and economy, long tied to the costs and commitments of defending the Free World, were unleashed resulting in the second longest period of uninterrupted growth in U.S. history.

During the Cold War, there were moments of great fear. We all remember the sealing of the western sector of Berlin and the threat of starving an entire city; the launching of Sputnik with the realization that the Soviet Union was a determined, resourceful foe; and the Cuban Missile Crisis which led us to the brink of war.

There were also moments of great stress and despair in our own nation. We went to battle for our beliefs. In the war in Korea, we lost more than 50,000 Americans. The war in Vietnam tested America's resolve. Our nation was torn apart so badly that some scars have yet to heal.

But there were also moments of pure magnificence. The Berlin Airlift and Inchon were great military successes and added to the honors of Armed Forces. Americans landing on the moon, the first safe return of the Space Shuttle, and the creation of the Internet are symbolic of an explosion in the development of useful technology.

Now, it is time to demonstrate our great respect for men and women who actually carried the burden of the policy of the United States during this Cold War. This bill, which would authorize the creation of a Department of Defense Cold War Victory Medal and create a Commission to plan for our celebration, is designed to do just that.

This recognition is long overdue. Last week, in Hauppauge, New York, at the annual ceremony which commemorates the beginning of the Korean War, Korean Americans and representatives of the Korean government spent 90 minutes thanking Americans for what they sacrificed for their people and their nation. While some Americans may not realize the significance of their accomplishments, the people of Korea do. So have the people of Berlin and the people of the Federal Republic of Germany who thanked America for saving Berlin just a few months ago at a ceremony at Ronald Reagan Airport.

As the tenth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall approaches, and as we begin a series of tenth anniversaries of critical events which led to the final end of the Cold War, it is appropriate that we act now to thank those generations of Americans who gave the world peace. And there is an urgency! Many who served during the last days of World War II have already departed for a better place. We need to move on this quickly to ensure that this nation extends its thanks to as many patriots as possible.

#### A TRIBUTE TO KIRK THOMAS BUECHNER; FOR HIS PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

##### HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest congratulations to Kirk Thomas Buechner, Boy Scout, from San Antonio, TX, upon the notification of his advancement to the rank of Eagle Scout.

Boy Scouts are awarded the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout based on their faith and obedience to the Scout Oath. The Scout Oath requires members to live with honor, loyalty, courage, cheerfulness, and an obligation to service.

In addition the rank of Eagle Scout is only bestowed once a Boy Scout satisfies duties including, the completion of 21 merit badges, performing a service project of significant value to the community, and additional requirements listed in the Scout Handbook.

In receiving this special recognition, I believe that Eagle Scout Kirk Thomas Buechner will guide and inspire his peers, toward the beliefs of the Scout Oath. I am proud to offer my congratulations to Kirk on this respected accomplishment.

#### EDEN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

##### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to commend the Eden United Church of Christ in Edwardsville, IL for their unparalleled contributions to the community. The church has joined hands with Habitat For Humanity to form the Vacation Bible school who's mission is to build a better foundation for life by learning the lessons of the Bible. Children join together to build toolboxes, picnic tables and other odds and ends to grace homes built by Habitat For Humanity.

Cory Luttrell, a 7-year-old participant in the school, is having a great time. "It gives people a place to put their tools after they build houses. They worked hard, so we should be helping them," Cory said. There are currently 1,700 Habitat For Humanity affiliates in 62 countries and they are responsible for the construction of more than 100,000 homes. The cooperation of Eden United Church of Christ and Habitat For Humanity is a great example of how organizations can come together so that they can better serve the community.

#### REPEALING THE ANTI-CALIFORNIA PROVISION OF THE CLEAN AIR ACT

##### HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, currently, California is arbitrarily limited to no more than 10% of